This course aims to introduce the folklore of the Slavic peoples to a general student audience, and also to examine how various forms of folklore (including tales, songs, historical narratives, chants, spells, schismatic religious works, etc.) have been treated by modern “high culture”. How have painters, dramatists, film-makers, poets, writers of fiction and others treated folklore; what ideological impulses have led people to collect and study it (and sometimes to misrepresent it); what sort of “living folklore” can be found in the countryside of the Slavic world today? In addition, the course looks at the new forms of folklore which have emerged in the modern, urban world, and seeks to explore the ways in which these new forms may be compared with “traditional” folklore. Informal lectures with discussions. Two short papers, three in-class examinations. No background in the subject required; all readings in English. Class materials will include visual, audio, and print media, plus folk art objects and other manifestations of the intersection of folklore with everyday life and with high culture.
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Informal lectures with discussions. Two short papers, three in-class writing assignments, with the grade determined as follows: 20% for each paper; 15% for each in-class writing assignment; 15% for class participation. A student missing more than three classes without documented medical or similar reason loses 10% of his/her final grade, with another 5% deducted for each further absence.
No background in the subject required; all readings in English. Class materials will include visual, audio, and print media, plus folk art objects and other manifestations of the intersection of folklore with everyday life and with high culture.


Other materials will be assigned from the course web site, or as viewing and listening assignments outside of class.

**Schedule of Classes**

**September:**

W  7  Introduction to course. What is folklore? What is Slavic folklore? What has modernity done to Slavic folklore? What forms of folklore thrive today?

F  9  Types, problems, approaches – some exemplary pieces, and some ways to investigate them (Materials on course web site).

M 12  Conc.

W 14 Classic forms – the folk tale, and its interpreters (selections from Afanas’ev, Ivanits)

F 16 cont.

M 19 conc.

W 21 The Slavic Epics (Bailey and Ivanova; Karadzic and Mihailovich).

F 23 cont.
M 26 cont..

W 28 conc.
F 30 Pagan Slavs: Beliefs, Ideology (Ivanits).

October:
M 3 conc.
W 5 Witchcraft and Sects (Ivanits, course web site)
F 7 conc.

First Paper Due

M 10 Folk art (web site materials).
W 12 The folk calendar (web site materials)
F 14 conc.

M 17 Mid-term Break.
W 19 Folklore of the Russian Table, Guest Lecturer – Alina Makin
F 21 First in-Class Writing Assignment

M 24 Guest Lecture, tba.
W 26 High culture and Slavic folklore – an introduction
F 28 Pushkin and the folk tale (web site materials).

M 31 Gogol’ and the folk tale (web site materials)

November
W 2 Modernism and folklore, introduction.

M 7 conc.
W 9 Second in-class writing assignment
F 11 Painting, arts, and crafts (web site materials)
M 14 conc.
W 16 Special Lecture: the Folklore of Poland – Calendar, Ritual, and Modernity
    (Ewa Malachowska-Pasek, Slavic Dept)
F 18 Marina Tsvetaeva; Nikolai Klyuev – poetry, folklore, ethnography, and time (web
    site materials)

M 21 conc.
THANKSGIVING

M 28 Folklore and film (Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors).
F 30 conc.

December:
F 2 New forms of folklore..
    Second paper due.

M 5 conc.
W 7 Folklore and high culture today.
F 9 conc.

M 12 Third in-class writing assignment.

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    Office Hours:
    M 12.00  W 2.15, F 10, or by appointment